

many little children never have been taught that we have a Savior, and have never known the meaning of Xmas. How many parents fail in teaching their little ones the meaning of Xmas. They get them many costly presents, but they are never told that they are presented in remembrance of our blessed Savior's birth, but how careful we should be to instruct these little ones and the many orphans who so often are forgotten by us. We should try to be an example for little ones, but how often we err. When we look back o'er the past year and see the many missteps we have made, and as we are now, at the dawn of another new year let us pray that by the help of God, should we live to see the close of another year, we may be wholly consecrated to him, that when he may call that we may be ready and willing to go, and that we may not go on in the future as we have been in the past, but let us grow to be better spiritually and let our light shine that men may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. When I sit and ponder o'er the past I can see many happy days that are past and gone never more to return and the many homes that have been saddened and the many vacant chairs that have been made by the cold and icy hands of death, but we should never worry, for God has only claimed his own. We know we have a merciful God, who never errs and is too good to be unkind. Let us all try and sow good seed this year, better than ever before, so that when the Lord calls us our garners will be well filled, and we can hear his welcome voice, "Come up higher, enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

M. F. LONG.

North Georgetown, Ohio

It seems the more correspondents a church appoints the less you hear from it. Brother Kimmel closed his protracted meeting at this place some time ago, having very good meetings, preaching the word with power, and while there were no immediate accessions, we trust the seed sown will root down deep, and spring up bearing most precious fruit. On Dec. 30, we held our business meeting, but seemingly there was too much business elsewhere for the brethren, as only a few were present. Although some very important business should have been transacted, it seemed unwise to those present so few in number to do the business which is the business of the entire church. We have so many young men and women in the church who are in every way capable of transacting the work of the church, yet absent when the time of meeting arrives. This is in no wise encouraging to the old brethren and sisters upon whose shoulders all the responsibility must rest, while the young members seem indifferent to the work. And while sitting in the house of the Lord and looking over the unoccupied seats and an empty choir stand, it made us feel despondent, and almost believing that we had strayed from our first love. But thanks be to the Lord a few yet remain faithful and will do their duty regardless of

anything that may be in the way. But I say who are you young man, and young woman, living in this age and country, and yet doing nothing to benefit others? Who are you—blest with powers of body and intellect, and yet an idler in the busy workshop of life? Who are you with an immortal soul, and yet that soul deaf to the myriad voices all about you that call you to duty and to labor? Arise! and be a faithful toiler. God calls you; humanity calls you; and they both have a right to all your powers. Arise! Make your whole life one scene of industry! Arise, and go forth, and every moment your feet shall press, or your hands touch some pedal or key in the "organs that shake the universe." Arise! there is work for you to do. You were created to toil and bear a hand where the hammers of time are ringing as they fashion the fabric of eternity. When we look at the magnitude of God's works we are confounded and bewildered. So great are they that like the little child, we can only wonder. And when we remember that God made *man* the most wonderful of his works, in His image, but a little lower than the angels. Then it is that we are reminded that *we too* have a work to do. The crowns we are to receive are numbered according to our work. The reward will be measured to the amount earned while here below. O! I sometimes feel as though very little will be given us on account of being idle. Brethren and sisters let us not be pretended but zealous workers; our lives are like the rainbow that spans the face of the heavens in the home from whence the raindrops are falling, but soon melts away, the storm clouds pass by, the day has gone, time has descended the falls of eternity. Our toils have ended, the red clouds seem hastening to bid the sun farewell, and then we are at rest, if we have done our duty here; the book is opened and then we learn how often we should have been about our Father's business and had too much business of our own. Let us rise higher and higher in the scale of Christianity and goodness, turning the darkness to light.

GEO. A. RUFF.

Ashland, Ohio

We are glad to report the work here going steadily on.

The church is observing the "week of prayer" using the Alliance topics and brother Yoder's jointly.

We again take up the revival effort Jan. 16, with brother Jacob I. Hall, of Virginia, the noted hymn writer and music composer of the South, to assist us in song. Let the brotherhood remember Ashland in prayer.

Brother and sister Allen Miller were home from Hiram College during vacation. The church was greatly edified by brother Miller's helpful discourses.

The night before the New Year will long be remembered by the writer and his family. It was cold and windy. The snow came whirling down, as if hunting a warm place to hide. The mercury itself was descending rapidly into its glass house—a typical Ohio

blizzard was on. As the shadows increased and the cold grew tenser, wagons began to deliver goods at our door, and presently came a whole army of soldiers—"soldiers of the cross"—and stormed our castle and took it, and stocked it with good things for the body too numerous to mention. They not only made our tables groan and our larder fat, but their presence and offering to the Lord, delivered to us, enriched us in all heavenly blessing.

We prize the occasion not for its intrinsic value, *but for the sentiment it represents.*

Beloved, may the Lord, the giver of every good and perfect gift, increase your store as the cruise of oil and the barrel of meal, and may your bread be multiplied as the loaves and fishes, and may you go in its strength as Elijah.

ZED H. COPP.

Dayton, O.

We feel that some of our dear brethren and sisters would like to know some things concerning the progress of the Dayton mission work. Brother J. M. Tombaugh still shares his labor with us and preaches for us every two weeks. We feel very grateful to the dear brother for his kindness, knowing, as we do, that he has so much work on his hands and work that demands so much of his time and energy. Yet withal he manages to come to us and encourages us and cheers us up by preaching to us such good practical sermons.

Our sisters have organized an Aid Society and some of us are very enthusiastic in the work. Our several committees are busy soliciting while others are engaged in making over and remodeling clothing for the many poor children in the vicinity of our church house where we hold our Sunday-school, and by that means inducing many to attend the school that otherwise would not. We do hope that we may be the humble instruments in God's hands of doing much good to the little ones both temporally and spiritually. We want to obey the command of bringing up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and, though we cannot have the daily training of them, we can give them lessons every Sunday that may bring great results. How many grand and noble men and women trace the success and beauty of their lives to Sabbath-school training, therefore, dear sisters, let us take courage.

CHARLOTTE T. BOND.

Report of Penna. State Evangelist

Commenced work in the state under direction of state board at McVeytown July 17, 1897. Conducted camp meeting and meeting at the church in town until the 31, and closed without any immediate results. Went from McVeytown to Maitland to look after some members of an organization that had been allowed to go down several years since; found four members yet remaining steadfast; transferred them to the McVeytown congregation. From here we went to McAllister-